City of Tempe P. O. Box 5002 Tempe, AZ 85280 www.tempe.gov **T**Tempe

Building Safety Division

## CARPORT TO GARAGE CONVERSIONS

## Definitions:

## Carport

A structure primarily used for parking vehicles, with two sides totally open.

## Garage

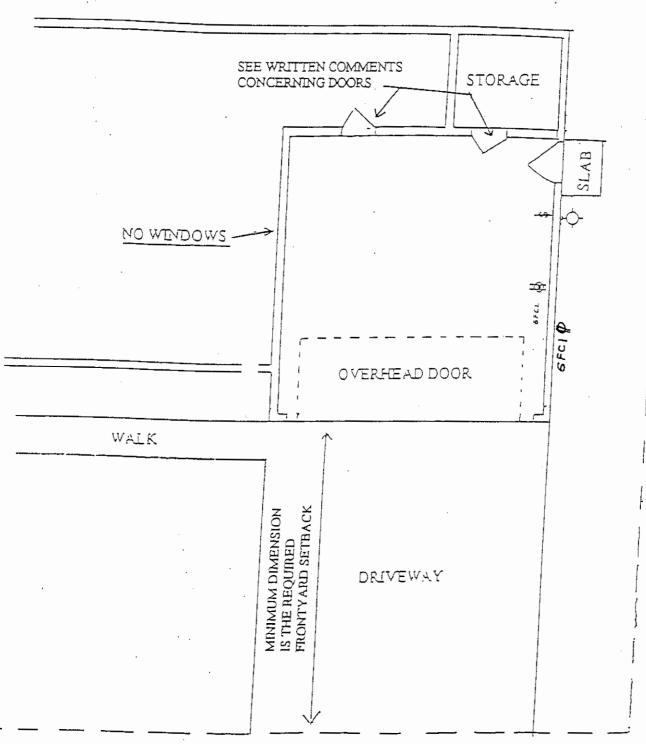
An enclosed structure on more than two sides primarily used for parking vehicles.

<u>Building Permit Required:</u> The current UBC (Uniform Building Code) as adopted by the City of Tempe requires that a building permit be obtained before converting a carport to a garage. Upon application, a permit will be issued, without the submittal of plans for review, when the enclosure of the carport conforms to the following requirements and examples:

- 1. All receptacles, unless dedicated to a specific appliance, shall be GFCI protected. There shall be at least one GFCI receptacle in the garage. If no GFCI receptacle exists on the front exterior of the house, one shall be installed in a weatherproof box.
- A garage shall have a modified one-hour fire separation between the garage and the house. Frame construction shall meet code requirements by installing two layers of 1/2 inch drywall or one layer of 5/8 inch Type "X" drywall on the garage side of the enclosure (including the ceiling). All structural members supporting the ceiling must be protected in a like manner. A masonry wall meets the one-hour requirement, however, the ceiling and structural wood framing members shall still require drywall protection.
- 3. Any attic access shall be protected for one-hour.
- 4. There shall be no unprotected openings in the wall or ceiling between the garage and the home interior, i. e. windows, non-steel ducts, central vacuum ducts, etc. (Openings may be protected with fire shutters, fire dampers, or other tested and listed products. Ask your inspector for some help in this area if you are unsure of how to handle your specific situation.)
- 5. Between the garage and the interior of the house, the door shall be a self-closing, tight-fitting solid wood door 1 3/8 inches in thickness, or you may install a self-closing, tight fitting door having a fire-protection rating of not less than 20 minutes. (This door shall be listed by an independent testing laboratory shall have a label stating its fire rating, affixed to the door.) The door shall swing to the interior of the home, or a minimum 3' x 3' landing shall be installed with a 1" maximum elevation difference between the house floor and the landing.

- 6. Any man-door to the exterior shall have an exterior light, controlled by a switch, and a landing at least 3' x and a landing at least 3' x 3'. If the door swings out over the landing, a step greater than 1" is not allowed.
- 7. Gas water heaters, accessible from within the garage, shall be installed on a platform so any flame is at least 18" above the floor.

A masonry wall, or removal of the columns and/or beam will require Construction Drawings provided by the applicant and submitted to Development Services for plan review...



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